

Senate Resolution 1015

By: Senator Meyer von Bremen of the 12th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and honoring the life of Dr. Carl Gordon; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Dr. Carl Gordon was born on October 25, 1927, in Albany, Georgia, to Walter
3 Carl Gordon, Sr., and Mary Louise Gordon; and

4 WHEREAS, he was born and raised in Albany, Georgia, and during his youth, he sold
5 Coca-Cola at a downtown gas station; and

6

7 WHEREAS, he graduated from Madison High School in 1947 and attended Hampton
8 Institute in Hampton, Virginia, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in
9 chemistry and a minor in biology, and from there he went on to Tuskegee Institute, in
10 Alabama, as a Carnegie Fellow where he earned a Master of Science degree in chemistry in
11 1948, at the age of 18; and

12 WHEREAS, he earned the unique distinction of being the first African American to complete
13 a senior surgical residency at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D. C.; and

14 WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon served in Vietnam and Korea as a military surgeon, and during his
15 tour in Vietnam, he became the first African American to command a medical battalion; and

16 WHEREAS, and while serving in Vietnam as a military surgeon, he developed many
17 innovative practices that saved the lives of many soldiers; and

18 WHEREAS, during his military service, he received many citations for bravery, gallantry,
19 and outstanding performance, such as three commendation medals, the Legion of Merit, and
20 the Vietnam Cross of Gallantry; and

1 WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon spent 13 years in active duty with the U. S. Army, reaching the rank
2 of Lieutenant Colonel, and went on to complete 23 years of service in the U. S. Army
3 Reserves; and

4 WHEREAS, in 1968, he returned to Albany and established a medical practice which thrived
5 for 35 years; and

6 WHEREAS, he became the first African American general surgeon in Albany and worked
7 at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital for 35 years, serving as chief of staff; and

8 WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon was a Third Degree Free and Accepted Mason at Price Hall, Pride
9 of Albany, Lodge # 360; and

10 WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon successfully recruited many qualified African American physicians
11 to work in Albany; and

12 WHEREAS, Dr. Gordon was very active in his community, receiving many honors and
13 awards, being most recently honored for his "lifetime of achievement" by the
14 Albany-Dougherty Inner City Authority for which he served as chairman from 1987 through
15 1991; and

16 WHEREAS, he and his wife, Susanne, raised a son and daughter and, most recently, a
17 grandson.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
19 recognize the life of Dr. Carl Gordon and extend to his family and friends their most sincere
20 condolences.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
22 to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the family of Dr. Carl Gordon.